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GEORGIAN SSR MECHANIZES GROWING OF LOCAL CROPS; REPORT CONFUSION IN TARTU METAL-WORKING PLANTS

MECHANIZE TEA, CITRUS, TUNG GROWING -- Tbilisi, Zarya Vostoka, 1 Mar 51

In 1949, the Georgian Special Design Bureau, Ministry of Agricultural-Machine Building USSR, was established in Tbilisi. Among the objectives of this bureau were the construction of tea-picking and tea-pruning machines, between-row cultivators for tea, citrus, and tung crops, machines for combating plant diseases and harmful growths, and machines for the initial processing of citrus fruit and tung.

In planning new machines, the physical and mechanical properties of tea shoots, the fruit of the tung tree, and mineral fertilizers are being studied.

The most urgent and complex problem facing the designers is the mechanization of green-tea-leaf picking, since such a machine would free a great number of hand tea pickers for other tasks. The Georgian Special Design Bureau should construct within 3 years completely satisfactory machines for pruning tea bushes and for picking green leaves. The design bureau has already been operating for 1½ years, and in this time it has achieved pronounced successes which lead us to believe that it will solve the problems that lie in the future.

Last summer, tea-picking machines were tested on the Layturskiy Tea Kolkhoz imeni S. M. Kirov and three of them picked green tea leaves selectively. The bureau is continuing to improve these machines, increasing the percentage of shoots gathered and lowering damage to the leaves. At present, designers are starting to develop plans for several more tea-pickers.

The construction of the completely new ChP-1.5 trailer tea-pruner, which successfully passed state tests and will be put into series production this year, is a triumph for the bureau's designers. This machine is drawn by a U-2 tractor fitted with large-size wheels, and is ten times more productive than a man pruning by hand. A self-propelled mountain-tea pruner designed by the bureau also passed state tests and was recommended for series production. This machine operates on flat land and on slopes up to 28 degrees, and its work fully meets agrotechnical requirements for quality.

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The bureau has developed and recently submitted for state testing two self-propelled universal machines which can prune tea bushes on flat land and on slopes up to 30 degrees, cultivate between rows, and carry out a number of other operations. A self-propelled universal machine for flat land performing the same operations has also been submitted for state testing. The best of these machines will be selected to mechanize a number of processes in the cultivation and care of tea crops such as pruning, cultivation, fertilizing, fumigating, and picking tea leaves on flat-land plantations and on slopes up to 30 degrees. The significance of these machines becomes apparent when we consider that in no branch of agriculture are there tractors or machines that can operate on slopes greater than 10 degrees, and that tea plantings are primarily located on slopes which are often very steep. The bureau is also designing a machine for heavy pruning of tea bushes, a labor-consuming process.

The bureau has developed several suspension cultivators to be used in combination with the self-propelled machines for weed control and between-row cultivation of tea. Four such cultivators have been built and will be submitted for state testing this year.

The bureau has developed a new, faster fumigation method and a way of producing "tsiangaz" [probably hydrogen cyanide] from "tsianplav" [probably potassium cyanide] by means of a generator. Tests of the generator and of the experimental fumigation apparatus, conducted late in 1950, gave good results.

Up to now, tung nuts have been hulled by hand, but the bureau has now developed four experimental tung-nut hullers.

The bureau has also developed plans for three different machines for measuring and sorting citrus fruits, a lighter type cableway for conveying tea leaves from the plantation to the factory, a plow cultivator for vineyards, a fixation apparatus for the production of green-leaf tea, a combined corn-soy nest planter, a modification of the KhTZ-7 tractor for between-row cultivation of citrus, tung, and fruit plants and of vineyards, and other machines.

Discussing the report of the Georgian Special Design Bureau, the Scientific Research Council, Ministry of Agricultural-Machine Building USSR, together with specialists of the All-Union Scientific Research Institute for Agricultural-Machine Building USSR, declared that the bureau had done significant work and had conducted it properly. Having constructed tea-pruning machines, the bureau will make every effort to build tea-picking machines in the near future. -- Docent Sh. Kereselidze, chief of the Georgian Design Bureau

HITS MAIN ADMINISTRATION FOR POOR LEADERSHIP -- Tallin, Sovetskaya Estoniya, 2 Mar 51

At a recent meeting of directors of Tartu metalworking industries held by the city committee of the party, Tambaum, chief of the Main Administration of Metal Industries, Ministry of Local and Shale-Chemical Industry Estonian SSR, had many serious and just grievances about the poor leadership and feeble help of the enterprises in the struggle to fulfill the production programs.

However, the methods of the main administration itself merit serious criticism, for it plans the work of its enterprises badly. This poor planning leads to many types of misunderstandings, discrepancies, and mistakes.

For instance, the first-quarter plan for 1950 called for the output of 200 ensilage-straw cutters by the Tartu Vyyt Agricultural-Machinery Plant, the third-quarter plan called for 100 cutters, and the fourth-quarter plan called for 200. This plan would undoubtedly have been fulfilled if the main administration had

supplied the plant on time with everything necessary for production. It was not until September 1950 that the main administration sent the plant a memorandum advising it to obtain the necessary technical documentation for the ensilage-straw cutter from the Gomsel'mash (Gomel' Agricultural-Machine Building) Plant no later than 1 October and to prepare its equipment for the production of the new machines by 1 November. The task naturally miscarried.

There are other examples of the main administration's failure to approach planning seriously. The Tartu Metal Combine planned the manufacture of wire netting for poultry farms in March 1950, but the main administration did not furnish the combine with the necessary wire and the task was not carried out. In October, an order for the same wire netting was included in the plan, but again it was not fulfilled for the very same reason.

Last year, the Vyyt Plant organized the production of a number of new products, among them, automatic machine tools for comb factories. At the end of the year, the main administration ordered the production of these automatic machine tools transferred to the Tartu Medical Instruments Plant. Recently, Tambaum gave an order to the director of the Vyyt Plant to begin making the automatic machine tools again, and to transfer the production of the planned ensilage-straw cutters and cultivators (test models of which had already been made by the Vyyt Plant) to one of the Tallin plants. The management of the Vyyt Plant does not know whether to set up the production of the automatic machine tools or to put out agricultural machines.

Selling finished products is an important problem, but the Main Administration of the Metal Industry does not handle this matter properly. There are several hundred agricultural machines worth hundreds of thousands of rubles at the Vyyt Plant. The plant takes and has taken measures to sell these products, but it cannot do it without the main administration's aid. Recently, the Vyyt Plant received orders to ship agricultural machines to various organizations, but the addresses of the buyers were not on the orders. The plant could ship nothing until it received more exact information. The orders had been read in the main administration's office, but for some reason no one had taken the trouble to see that they were clear.

The workers of the Ministry of Local and Shale-Chemical Industries do not maintain active contact with the administrative, engineering, and technical personnel of the enterprises. Takhker, chief of the Main Administration of Supply, has not once been seen in Tartu enterprises, although the complaints about his department are particularly numerous. Yul'am, chief engineer of the Main Administration of Metal Industries, Tambaum, chief of the main administration, and Ellek, chief of the technical production department are also rare guests in Tartu.

The poor leadership of the main administration and the Ministry of Local and Shale-Chemical Industries Estonian SSR and gross mismanagement of the enterprises have led to nonfulfillment of many assignments. It is time for the Main Administration of Metal Industries to take decisive action to end mismanagement in its enterprises.

BUILD ELECTRIC SUBSTATION FOR FARM MACHINES -- Moscow, Izvestiya, 14 Mar 51

The Yerevan Electrical-Machine Building Plant has constructed the "Yerevan" mobile transformer substation for electric tractors. The substation is distinguished for simplicity of construction and ease of servicing. It is equipped with a device for tapping high-voltage transmission lines rapidly and safely. This transformer substation is the first in which a method for continuous checking for grounds is employed. The whole substation is operated by remote control from the cab of the electric tractor.

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An electric tractor can cultivate 25 hectares of land without moving the transformer substation, and up to 200 hectares by using spare cable. The plant is now starting the series production of this substation, and also preparing for the output of similar aggregates for electric combines.

START SERIES PRODUCTION OF LAND-CLEARING, IRRIGATION MACHINES -- Frunze, Sovetskaya Kirgiziya, 24 Feb 51

The Institute for the Mechanization of Agriculture, Academy of Sciences, Belorussian SSR has designed shrub-cutting and stone-removing (kamneuborochnaya) machines. Both machines, tested on kolkhozes in Minsk and Polessk oblasts, have produced excellent results, doing the work of 100-120 men. They have gone into series production. Trench diggers built by the institute have mechanized the breaking of small drainage and collecting canals in peaty and swampy soil, replacing several hundred men.

DESIGN CORN HARVESTERS -- Yerevan, Kommunist, 9 Mar 51

Designers of the Ministry of Agricultural-Machine Building have constructed several types of corn harvesters. The basic aggregate is a corn harvesting combine which cuts the stalk, trims the cobs from it, and pulverizes the stalk into ensilage. The trimmed cobs are collected in a bin, and the ensilage is fed into a stacker hitched on behind the combine. The combine harvests 0.65-0.84 hectares of corn per hour, increasing labor productivity 30 times as compared to hand labor.

Other types of machines are a corn picker which tears the cobs off the stalk and then cuts the stalk, and a harvester binder which cuts the stalks and binds them in sheaves.

FAIL TO PRODUCE CONSUMERS' GOODS -- Moscow, Trud, 6 Mar 51

Enterprises of the Ministries of Agricultural-Machine Building RSFSR, Ukraine, and Belorussia have failed to satisfy the demand for consumers' goods.

There were large quantities of bicycles, phonographs, and other articles which the trade system did not receive.

SCORE HIGH PRODUCTION COSTS OF FARM MACHINES -- Moscow, Izvestiya, 9 Mar 51

The production cost of a mower at the Kazakhsel'mash (Kazakh Agricultural-Machine Building) Plant was 53 percent higher than the production cost of the same mower at the Frunze Agricultural-Machine-Building Plant imeni Frunze. The production cost of an LM-5 reaper at the Pervomaysk Agricultural-Machine-Building Plant was 127.7 percent higher than the cost at the Lyubertsy Agricultural-Machine-Building Plant imeni Ukhtomskiy.

PRODUCE DOUBLE-ROW SEEDER -- Moscow, Ogonek, 8 Apr 51

The new SB-48 wheat drill increases wheat yield 2-3 and sometimes up to 5 centners per hectare. The drill has the customary 24 colters, but each colter sows two rows, so that 48 rows are sown instead of the usual 24. The same amount of seed is put out as before, but it is distributed more thinly since the number of rows has been doubled. This narrow-row seeding inhibits the growth of weeds. Mass production of these drills has been started.

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